

Unit 6: Educational History Project

“I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.”

--Mark Twain

INTRODUCTION: When people think of education, they often think of school. And while the time we spend in school certainly shapes who we are, education is not limited to the time we spend in a classroom.

DIRECTIONS: This educational history project will give you the opportunity to get to know the educational history of someone in your family or in your personal life. The goal here is twofold: first, I hope that we can come to recognize that learning comes in many forms and honor various forms of learning; second, I hope that we can get to know the people we care about a little more comprehensively, and see the diversity of the educational histories of our community.

The subject for your essay should be someone in your life who you want to get to know better. This person needs to be older than you, but does not necessarily need to be a family member. Please refrain from writing about friends at school and significant others.

PART 1: Narrative Essay

The first part of your project is to write a narrative essay that tells a story about some aspect of your subject's educational history. Draw on the various texts from Unit 6 and think about whose writing style you like the most. Your objective here is to tell a compelling story that incorporates a wide array of rhetorical devices as a means of bringing the story—the history—to life.

There are four suggested topics below, but you may also select your own topic with Ms. Guillen's permission.

Topic 1: How I learned to read.

Topic 2: My greatest teacher.

Topic 3: The book or story I dislike the most.

Topic 4: The greatest lesson I ever learned.

PART 2: Visual Essay

The second part of your project is to create a visual essay that expresses the same emotions and ideas as your narrative essay, but instead of words, you must rely on images (cartoons, photographs, paintings) and graphic displays of quantitative data (statistics, graphs, tables, charts). You may include no more than 10 words in your visual essay.

This is not to be a collage of random people cut out of magazines and hastily glued to a piece of printer paper. Nor should this be an amalgamation of clip art printed out on the office printer. Get creative. Put time and thought into the final product you want to create. Think about symbols and colors and shapes. Think about handwriting. Photographs. Special words. Frustrations. Laughter. You must honor the person whose story you're telling by way of the visual essay.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY PROJECT REQUIREMENTS + DEADLINES

PART 1: Narrative Essay Requirements

1. 2-3 pages, MLA Format
2. Works Cited (for personal interview)
3. Each of the following rhetorical devices need to be used: polysyndeton, imagery, parallel structure, rhetorical question, AND ONE of the following: cumulative sentence, inverted sentence, periodic sentence
4. In addition to your narrative, you must include a one-paragraph explanation of how your narrative compares or contrasts to our society's typical concept of "education."

PART 1: DEADLINES

Subject + Topic Selection: 3/14

Interview Questions: 3/14

Narrative Rough Draft: 3/16

Narrative Final Draft: 3/30 DUE TO TURNITIN.COM by Midnight

PART 2: Visual Essay Requirements

1. Size: 8 ½ X 11 to 11 X 17
2. Combination of 4 or more of the following visual components: images (cartoons, photographs, paintings) and graphic displays of quantitative data (statistics, graphs, tables, charts)
3. No more than 10 words

PART 2: DEADLINES

Visual Essay Rough Draft: 3/28

Visual Essay Final Draft: 3/30 DUE in class (These will be displayed during Open House.)